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County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS • Public Relations Group

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PICK UP AFTER YOUR POOCH!

*County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Reminds Pet-owners to “Bag It”
on “Take Your Dog to Work Day”*

(LOS ANGELES) According to a recent survey of County of Los Angeles residents, pet-owners walk their dog without picking-up pet waste left by their pooches more than 100,000 times per month. County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works officials are acknowledging “Take Your Dog to Work Day,” June 20, to remind dog-owners of the importance of picking up after their pet—for the health of their four-legged friends and our environment.

Pet droppings left on the ground is often washed into the storm drain system either by hose or rain, and carried, untreated, through creeks, streams, and the flood control system to the ocean. Pet waste within the watershed is unhealthy for humans, pets, and marine life and can lead to serious problems stemming from contact with viruses and bacteria. Certain viruses are particularly dangerous for puppies without developed immune systems.

“Each and every one of us is part of the solution,” said Dean D. Efstathiou, Acting Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. “Pet owners can protect the health of their animals and help prevent stormwater pollution by doing their part to keep the environment clean.”

Dog owners can help solve this problem by taking these easy steps:

- ✓ Pick up your dog's waste EVERY SINGLE TIME.
- ✓ Take advantage of complimentary waste bag dispensers at local parks.
- ✓ Carry extra bags when walking your dog and make them available to other pet owners who are without bags to handle their dog's waste.
- ✓ Tell friends and neighbors about the negative effects of animal waste on the environment and encourage them to be responsible and clean up after their pets as well!

(more)

For more information about preventing stormwater pollution and protecting your health and the environment, please call 1(888)CLEAN LA or log on to www.888CleanLA.com.

About the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works services range from road and flood control system maintenance, construction programs, building and safety services, traffic signals and street signs for the 130 unincorporated communities in the County. As the Principal Permittee for the State's Municipal NPDES Permit, the County of L.A. Department of Public Works oversees public education and information programs designed to reach the 10.3 million residents of the County of Los Angeles with crucial messages about protecting the environment. These programs are part of a comprehensive effort to help residents understand the impact they have on the environment and the steps they can take to protect and improve it.

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